

Lights Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 7:30pm
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present: Selectman David Muller, BOE Representative Elise Major, Brian Porter, Richard Silverstein, School Director of Finance and Operations Dr. JoAnn Keating, School Facilities Director Joseph Olenik, and Weston residents.

Mr. Muller called the meeting to order at 7:34pm

Discussion of Committee mandate and terms of Memorandum of Understanding

Committee Chairman Muller outlined his understanding of the role of the Committee, which is to serve as a destination for complaints about violations of the MOU and to review the implementation of the new sound system. He added that the Committee's role is not to reconsider the terms of the MOU, which had been negotiated between the signatories to that agreement, nor is its purpose to discuss issues concerning other school or town facilities. Mr. Porter noted that the review of the sound system should not be a one-time occurrence, but rather should be considered over time. Other members of the Committee expressed their agreement with Mr. Muller's interpretation.

Update on Lights Project and sound system installation

Dr. Keating and Mr. Olenik discussed the key dates in the installation process, noting the completion of the installation in the 3rd week of September. Testing of the efficacy of the system was completed on September 22nd, with monitors showing zero lighting spillage at abutting property lines. There was discussion as to what constitutes "spillage" and at what height above ground level the assessment was made, following comments by Mr. Silverstein and Mr. Porter that there is spillage onto their properties. An additional spill test is scheduled for November 19th to assess the impact once the leaves have come down. Mr. Olenik invited Committee members and any other interested parties to participate in the spill test. He also noted that the one remaining open item is the installation of an override button for walkers. Mr. Silverstein asked about the timing for the discussion of screening, as referenced in the MOU. The MOU stipulates that abutting neighbors may request a review of the need for screening, and Mr. Silverstein requested that his question serve as a formal request for such a review.

The Committee then discussed the new sound system. Dr. Keating explained that the old sound system had been re-installed after one week due to dissatisfaction with the new system, and that the new system is working well. Mr. Silverstein asked about the physical controls on the volume level. Mr. Olenik explained that there is only one maximum sound level permitted, and that there are 5 individual speakers that can be controlled separately. Mr. Silverstein asked if the sound level can be adjusted down if conditions warrant. Mrs. Major offered to check with Athletic Director Mark Berkowitz. In response to a question, Mr. Olenik informed the Committee that all required signage has been completed. Mr. Silverstein asked who is tracking and monitoring compliance with the terms of the MOU, i.e. who knows when the approved number of events has been reached. Mrs. Major explained that Mr. Berkowitz schedules usage of the field in

accordance with the terms of the MOU, and she offered to confirm with Mr. Berkowitz that he is doing so.

The Committee agreed that a schedule of meetings for the next year should be set and publicized. The Committee also discussed the importance of establishing a process for interested parties to have concerns addressed. Mr. Muller agreed to clarify when the “one year” specified in the MOU is effective and to try to arrange for an article in the Weston Forum explaining the Committee’s role.

Respectfully submitted by David Muller.
November 9, 2014